

**COLUMBIA RIVER COMPACT
FACT SHEET
May 15, 2002**

Purpose: To consider Tribal Commercial Fishery Proposal.

TAC has not reviewed this fact sheet, but has reviewed the previous commercial opening catches.

STOCK STATUS

- The preseason expectation was for a return of 333,700 spring chinook destined for above Bonneville Dam.
- Through May 7 just over 235,000 adult spring chinook have passed Bonneville Dam.
- The TAC met Monday and updated the upriver spring chinook run size. The updated run size is now forecasted to be 303,000 at the mouth of the Columbia.
- The spring chinook run typically peaks at Bonneville Dam during mid to late April. TAC expects the run timing this year to be late. The run had its peak count of 26,430 on April 30 and should be about 85% complete right now.

SPRING CHINOOK MANAGEMENT

- Treaty fisheries for 2001 will now be managed according to the Interim Management Agreement to not to exceed a 12% impact rate on upriver wild spring chinook.
- Given the current forecast, the tribes expect to harvest 36,360 spring chinook. The Tribes have chosen to utilize their harvest in three fishery sectors: A ceremonial gillnet fishery, a subsistence platform fishery, and a commercial fishery. Estimated harvests for these sectors are shown in Table 1.
- Steelhead harvest has been minimal with an estimated catch of 200 in the platform fishery and very few in the permit fishery. The estimated harvest in the first three commercial opening was 201. Only a very small proportion of the 2002 summer steelhead run has entered Zone 6 so far. The tribes anticipate continued very low steelhead impacts in commercial openings as occurred in 2001.

Table 1

<i>Preliminary Treaty Fishery Impacts For Upriver Spring Chinook</i>		
Fishery	Impacts	
	Catch Expectation to date	Projection to end of spring season
Winter Gillnet Fishery	45	45
Winter Subsistence Catch	169	169
Ceremonial Gillnet Fishery (through 5/6)	6,700	6,800
Subsistence Platform Fishery (through 5/4)	1,350	2,250
First Commercial Fishery Opening (4/17-4/19)	8,148	8,148
Second Commercial Fishery Opening (5/2-5/4)	10,836	10,836
Third Commercial Opening (5/10-5/11)	4,214	4,214
Proposed 4 th Commercial Opening (5/17-5/18)		3,000
Total to Date	31,762	
Projected Total to End of Season		35,462
Allowable Impacts	36,360	37,080
Remaining Available Harvest	4,598	898

ZONE 6 COMMERCIAL FISHERY PROPOSAL

- The tribes will propose a commercial gillnet fishery opening that is projected to harvest up to 3,000 spring chinook. This opening combined with the other fishery impacts to date will not exceed the total allowable impacts for the tribal fishery.
- The tribes will also propose allowing the sale of platform caught fish beginning with the Commercial Gillnet opening 6:00 AM Friday May 17 and ending 12:00 Noon Wednesday May 29. The Yakama Nation will allow commercial sales of fish harvested in their tributary fisheries in the Klickitat River, Wind River and Big White Salmon River during this period as well as allow the sale of Drano Lake caught fish from the Tuesday night fishery (May 21-22 and May 28-29).
- Tribal staff will monitor the tributary fisheries as well as the Zone 6 gillnet and platform fisheries in order to assure proper total catch accounting.

<i>Proposed Commercial Fishery</i>	
Area:	All of Zone 6
Dates:	6:00 AM Friday May 17 to 6:00 PM Saturday May 18
Restrictions:	Allowable sales include chinook salmon, steelhead, walleye, carp, and shad. Commercial sales of platform caught fish are allowed during commercial openings. Sturgeon between 4 and 5 feet may be retained for subsistence use. All standard sanctuaries remain in effect with the exception of the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary, which is not necessary at this time of year.

- The tribes intend to use an aerial survey to measure effort during the next gillnet opening. The catch sold to buyers will be sampled for CWT's by state staff.